

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'22 AUG -2 A 8 :48

SENATE

S. No. 987

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

**AN ACT
REQUIRING THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VOLCANOLOGY AND
SEISMOLOGY (PHIVOLCS) AND THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC,
GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
(PAGASA) TO ESTABLISH THE NATURAL CALAMITIES' HAZARD
MITIGATION PROGRAM**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A considerable number of deadly typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters has brought its wrath into the Philippines. This is mainly because of the country's geographic position – being along the Ring of Fire, or typhoon belt. The Ring of Fire is one of the most geologically active areas where active volcanoes are located surrounding the Pacific Ocean.

This alone makes it imperative for the country to have a systematic disaster risk reduction and response mechanism that would equip us in dealing with natural disasters.

In response, Republic Act 10121, otherwise known as the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010 was enacted. This proposed measure seeks to complement the said law by enhancing the natural calamities' hazard mitigation program to primarily benefit all coastal and insular areas.

As we know, coastal and insular areas are more susceptible to the devastating effects of typhoons, floods, and tsunamis. Further, our *kababayans* who live in these areas often belong to the more vulnerable portion of our citizenry; thus, this particular focus on them.

In this regard, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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MITIGATION PROGRAM**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

- 1 SECTION 1. *Short title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Calamities' Hazard*
2 *Mitigation Program Act*".
- 3 Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms and
4 phrases shall mean as follows:
- 5 A. *Natural Calamities* – means the events caused by nature resulting in
6 great loss and misfortune. These include, but are not limited to, typhoon,
7 earthquake, tsunami, landslide, tornado, etc.;
 - 8 B. *PHIVOLCS* means the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and
9 Seismology;
 - 10 C. *PAGASA* means the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and
11 Astronomical Services Administration;
 - 12 D. *Program* means the Natural Calamities' Hazard Mitigation Program;
 - 13 E. *DENR* means the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
14 and
 - 15 F. *MGB* means the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

1 Sec. 3. *Natural Calamities' Hazard Mitigation Program.* –

2 A) In General – The PHIVOLCS and PAGASA shall establish the natural
3 calamities' hazard mitigation program for all coastal and insular areas,
4 to perform hazard assessment, monitoring and warning, and public
5 education functions. Such program shall:

- 6 1) Provide warnings of anticipated calamities, and maintain the
7 equipment necessary to make such warnings;
- 8 2) Conduct periodic tests of the calamities' warning system to ensure
9 its operational effectiveness;
- 10 3) Make calamities' warning system available to the broadest extent
11 practicable;
- 12 4) Establish a long-term plan to determine areas of possible inundation
13 for all threatened coastal and insular areas of the country, beginning
14 with the most populous;
- 15 5) Coordinate the preparation of local evacuation plans for susceptible
16 communities; and
- 17 6) Affiliate and coordinate with and maintain membership in
18 international organizations dealing with various calamities such as
19 the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Pacific Tsunami
20 Warning Center (PTWC), GeoHazards International (GHI), etc.

21 B) Primary Beneficiaries – The program established under subsection (A)
22 shall be designed for the benefit of all coastal and insular areas of the
23 country, particularly those near in the Manila Trench which extends from
24 Taiwan down to the offshore area of Mindoro at the side of the China
25 Sea; the Sulu Trench extending from the offshore area of Romblon down
26 to offshore area at the northwest Mindanao; the Cotabato Trench also
27 located at the offshore area at the northern tip of Mindanao; and the
28 Philippine Trench which runs from the southern tip of the Philippine
29 archipelago at the side of the Pacific Ocean northward up to the eastern
30 coastline of Infanta, Quezon.

1 C) Other Beneficiaries – Such other coastal and insular areas as may be
2 pointed out by the PHIVOLCS and PAGASA, in coordination with the
3 DENR, through the MGB, are also beneficiaries of this program.

4 Sec. 4. *Coordinating Agency.* – The PHIVOLCS and PAGASA are hereby
5 authorized to coordinate with the DENR, through the MGB, in implementing this
6 program.

7 Sec. 5. *Authorization of Appropriation.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act,
8 such sum as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the
9 National Treasury.

10 Sec. 6. *Regulations.* – Not later than sixty (60) days after the date of the
11 enactment of this Act, the PHIVOLCS and the PAGASA shall promulgate and issue such
12 regulations as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

13 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* If any portion of this Act is declared
14 unconstitutional or invalid, the portions or provisions which are not affected shall
15 continue to be in full force and effect.

16 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and
17 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed
18 or modified accordingly.

19 Sec. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
21 circulation.

Approved,